(*b*) if not, have the Government ever invited the opinion of their Lordships on the above subject?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No reply required in view of the answer to (*a*).

MATTANCHERI TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

414. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of meetings held since the constitution of the Mattancheri Town Improvement Committee;

(*b*) what plans have been under consideration for improvement and reconstruction works in Mattancheri by the Post-war Reconstruction Committee?

Mr. V. K. Aravidaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) One.

(*b*) Plans are under preparation.

PAY-WARDS IN THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

415. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Women-Ernakulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the room rent charged for rooms in the payward of the General Hospital, Ernakulam

(*b*) what was the rent charged before;

(*c*) what is the reason for enhancing the rate;

(*d*) what are the additional facilities given after the enhancement of the rate;

(*e*) are the Government aware of the great inconvenience caused to the patients in the payward as there is only one common light for each room occupied by two patients?

Rao Sahib T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*:

(*a*) Rs. 4 for single-bed ward and Rs. 2—8—0 for each patient in the double-bed ward per day.

(*b*) Rs. 2 for single-bed ward and Rs. 1—8—0 per patient in the double-bed ward.

(*c*) Because it was felt that the pre-war rates were very low.

(*d*) No great additional facilities are provided consequent on the revision of payward charges.

(*e*) No.

CIVIL HOSPITAL—DEATH OF A PATIENT DUE TO PLAGUE

416. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the statement that one in-patient who died in the Civil Hospital was suffering from plague?

Rao Sahib T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Yes.

QUININE—SUPPLY OF

417. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any stock of quinine hydrochlor has been supplied to Vadakkancheri Hospital this year;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will they please state the quantity with date of supply;

(*c*) whether they are aware that for the last many days there is reported to be not even one minimum dose of this medicine in the hospital;

(*d*) will they please ascertain the stock of quinine hydrochlor and quinine sulph of 22nd February 1945/11th Kumbham 1120 in the above hospital;

(*e*) whether they are aware that malaria cases are in the increase in the hospital now?

Rao Sahib T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) One pound on 22nd Chingam 1120.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Stock on 22nd February 1945 lb. 5 Oz. 8 Quinine Sulph, Quinine Hydrochlor 2¾ Oz.

(*e*) Cases of malaria are on the increase now.

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